



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs

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Corps to open Lower Monumental Dam for vehicle crossings

KAHLOTUS, Wash, -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will open Lower Monumental Lock and Dam to public traffic on a limited, six-month trial basis, starting June 1, Walla Walla District operations officials announced today.

Lower Monumental will be open for crossings once an hour, on the half-hour, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and closed on federal holidays. Crossing times are 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 in the morning, and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon. Passenger cars, motorcycles, open trucks, recreation vehicles, small vans and farm equipment, with the exception of fuel trucks, will be allowed to cross.

Large, commercial vehicles, trucks, vehicles hauling flammable or explosive cargo and vehicles that cannot be easily searched will not be allowed to cross the dam. Tour and school buses must contact the dam 24 hours in advance for authorization (509) 282-7253/3219/3218.

All vehicles crossing the dam are subject to a search. Photo identification is required for all vehicle occupants 16 years of age and older. All firearms must be unloaded and declared at the gate. Foreign nationals with proper identification may cross the dam. Security guards are authorized to perform detailed vehicle searches and deny vehicle access across the dam. Drivers may not stop their vehicles to take pictures or sight see during escorted crossings. Pedestrian traffic across the dam is not allowed because of safety considerations.

"It is important to note there could still be closures," said Roger Golladay, operations manager at the dam. "The district may at any time close access to traffic for extended periods of time due to operations, maintenance or construction-related activities at the project."

A change in security conditions could also terminate public access across the dam until such time as threat levels decrease. The public will be notified about closures, if possible, in advance, but the crossing is still subject to closing at anytime.

Two other dams in the Walla Walla District also allow public vehicle crossings: Little Goose Lock and Dam near Starbuck, Wash., and Lower Granite Lock and Dam, near Pomeroy, Wash. Little Goose's crossing schedule is 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 in the morning, and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon., Monday through Thursday and closed on federal holidays. Tour and school busses must contact the dam at (509) 399-2233, extensions 227, 231 or 252, at least 24 hours in advance for crossing authorization. Lower Granite allows traffic crossings Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except for federal holidays. Tour and school busses must contact the dam at (509) 843-1493 at least 24 hours in advance for crossing authorization.

Photo identification, vehicle searches and other previously listed requirements are standard policy for the public to cross at Walla Walla District dams. For more information about dam crossings in the Walla Walla District, call 1-888-DAM-INFO (1-888-326-4636), or call the Public Affairs Office at (509) 527-7020.

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